

January 12, 1984

LR 10

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, I do, thank you, Mr. President. I attended a couple meetings of the Commission on Lotteries and...well the Pickle and Lottery Commission and one of the very first meetings that I attended there was a problem because we had, for instance, a Senior Citizen Center in Omaha that was refused a license because they had just formed the center that year and were not able to hold bingos at that center because they were not in existence for five years and I think they also did it to an Eagles in one of the smaller towns and also to another V.F.W. group and they were told because they just bought a building and opened it up they were not allowed to hold any bingos because they were not in existence for five years. Well they are an international or a national organization but because they have a different number, oh, for instance, V.F.W. 9551 or a new senior citizens center, they were not allowed to hold bingos. After a couple, two or three weeks of discussion they finally allowed the senior citizens centers to start the bingos and obtain the license. Unfortunately they are not under all one umbrella when they form a V.F.W. or an American Legion or whatever, they come under a different post number and that is where the problem was. So I am a little skeptical about the amendment but it should be clarified in some way that when it is a national organization such as the Eagles or the V.F.W., the Sokols or any senior citizens which is most important in the Omaha area because they are constantly opening nutrition sites or recreational centers for the senior citizens and they are very, very upset because they are not allowed to obtain a license because they have not been in existence for five years. I might also add that although I support LR 10, the amendment that Senator Morehead has introduced to LR 10, I do not support LR 10 for a formation or authority for a state lottery and one of the main reasons is because Douglas County and several small towns now, local governments do have their own lottery and I did support a state lottery in the last session but I cannot in any good conscience now tell those people that they have to discontinue their lottery and one of the other main reasons is that Governor Kerrey mentioned, I think several months ago, that if we did have a state lottery all revenues...he does not approve of a state lottery where the revenues would not be returned to the general fund of the state. I think that the local